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## Cuba: Soviet Departure Causes Missile Threat

The United States faced a new problem over Cuba last week.

Paradoxically it arose from the expected withdrawal of remaining Soviet troops on the island. This, according to recent reports, is about to take place. Some 3,000 Soviet troops—the remainder of the estimated 22,000 there during the Oct., 1962 missile crisis—are expected to be shipped home, leaving only some technicians and a small permanent military mission.

To the United States, which demands total removal of Soviet men, arms, equipment and influence from Cuba, the latest reports of an impending withdrawal would be good news but for one hitch. Reports also indicated that the Soviet Union is prepared to turn over to the Cubans 24 complexes of anti-aircraft missiles (SAM-2s).

### Doom for U-2

It was such a missile, able to reach 80,000 ft., which is believed to have downed the U-2 reconnaissance plane in which Maj. Rudolph Anderson Jr. was killed on Oct. 27, 1962.

Since the Oct., 1962 missile crisis ended U.S. reconnaissance planes have photographed all of Cuba at least once a week with what has been, apparently, the tacit approval of the Russians.

So far as is known, the Russians have not fired the SAM's against U.S. reconnaissance planes since Anderson was killed. The Defense Department disclosed last week for the first time officially that Capt. Joe E. Hyde was returning from a mission over Cuba when he died in the crash of his U-2 plane near Key West, Fla. Nov. 20. The crash was believed to have been caused by mechanical trouble. Sixteen U.S. pilots, the Defense Department said, have received decorations

since Nov., 1962 for reconnaissance flights over Cuba.

U.S. aerial surveillance has continued as a substitute for the last stage of the crisis arrangement between President Kennedy and Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev in which there was to be international ground inspection of Cuba to insure against the re-introduction of Soviet offensive missiles and bombers. Premier Fidel Castro, who resented the Washington-Moscow dealings over his head, refused to allow inspectors in Cuba.

### Castro Bellicose

Fears that Cubans might use the SAMs against the U.S. planes once the Russians left were increased Sunday night when Castro, in a two-hour, televised, anti-U.S. diatribe, demanded a halt to U.S. reconnaissance flights over Cuba.

President Johnson served notice that the flights would continue. The State Department, in a public warning and in a note to Cuba via the Swiss Embassy, told Castro that any use of the SAMs against U.S. aircraft would create "a highly dangerous situation."

The Defense Department backed the warning by letting it be known that hundreds of U.S. jet fighter bombers and attack planes—each able to blast the already pinpointed SAM site with tons of high explosives—were poised within range of Cuba.

### Planes in Florida

Three Air Force wings with as many as 75 planes each were at Homestead and MacDill Air Force bases in southern Florida. The carriers Saratoga and Roosevelt with about 200 planes between them were off southern Florida. Navy and Marine jets were also at Key West, Fla., 80 miles from Cuba.

Meanwhile, the administration, on another tack, privately urged Moscow to keep control over the SAMs.

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